

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
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DRAFTED BY ARA:FJDEVINE:FBL
APPROVED BY ARA:FJDEVINE
ARA/AND:RMBARNEBEY (DRAFT)
-----040112Z 059121 /63

R 031835Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128372

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PBOR, VE

SUBJECT: FIFTH DEMARCHE DESIGNED TO EASE TENSIONS IN THE
ANDES--VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 098424; 204793; 110181; 117968

1. FIFTH AUTHORIZED DIPLOMATIC DEMARCHE DESIGNED TO EASE
WAR FEARS AND TENSIONS IN THE ANDES WAS CARRIED OUT ON
JUNE 2 BY ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DEVINE, AC-
COMPANIED BY ARA/AND ACTING OFFICE DIRECTOR BARNEBEY, WITH
AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN OF VENEZUELA.

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2. DEVINE LED INTO THE CONVERSATION BY OBSERVING THAT
THE US AND VENEZUELA HAVE MUCH IN COMMON AS DEMOCRACIES
AND FELLOW PRACTITIONERS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
ON THIS BASIS, WE FIND IT EASY TO CONSULT AND COOPERATE
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA IN THESE AND OTHER
FIELDS. AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN ACCEPTED THIS GRACIOUSLY

AND SAID THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES DO INDEED SHARE MANY COMMON VALUES AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK WELL AND EASILY TOGETHER.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, DEVINE THEN SAID THAT AMONG OUR MORE SERIOUS INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA IS THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE. PRESIDENT CARTER, IN HIS APRIL 14 SPEECH TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OAS, HAD EXPLICITLY MENTIONED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PEACEKEEPING FUNCTION. IN QUICK SUMMARY, THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE THEN MADE TO AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN:

A) SIGNIFICANT INTRA-ANDEAN TENSIONS OF LAST DECEMBER AND JANUARY INVOLVING BOLIVIA, CHILE, ECUADOR AND PERU HAD BEEN WATCHED BY US WITH SOME CONCERN.

B) WE WERE RELIEVED TO SEE THOSE TENSIONS SUBSEQUENTLY SUBSIDE AND GIVE WAY TO THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIVE TRANQUILITY.

C) WE VIEW THIS PRESENT PERIOD OF CALM AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT UPON THE PAST IN HOPES OF PREVENTING OR MITIGATING FUTURE RECURRENCE OF INTRA-ANDEAN TENSIONS.

D) IN RETROSPECT, WE DETECT A CONSIDERABLE LEVEL OF MISPERCEPTION AND MISINTERPRETATION UNDERLYING THE DECEMBER-JANUARY PERIOD OF TENSIONS.

E) ANOTHER CAUSATIVE FACTOR WAS CLEARLY PERU'S IMPRES-
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SIVE ARMS BUILD-UP BASED IN SIGNIFICANT PART ON WEAPONRY SUPPLIED FROM SOVIET SOURCES.

F) PERU ARGUES THAT ITS ARMS BUILD-UP HAS BEEN TO ACHIEVE "BALANCE" IN THE FACE OF ITS MULTIPLE CONTIGUOUS NEIGHBORS, WHEREAS EACH OF THE LATTER TENDS TO SEE THE SAME BUILD-UP AS RESULTING IN AN ARMS IMBALANCE HEAVILY TILTED IN PERU'S FAVOR. BUT RESULTING MOVES BY THOSE NEIGHBORS TO RESTORE WHAT THEY CONSIDER A PROPER BALANCE OBVIOUSLY ONLY GENERATE FURTHER APPETITE FOR ARMS ACQUISITION ON THE PART OF PERU. WE SEEM THUS FACED WITH AN EVER ASCENDING SPIRAL OF ARMS PURCHASES, ALL AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS LATIN AMERICA'S TRUE PRIORITY NEED. (HERE AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN SMILINGLY INTERPOSED THAT ANOTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IS THE EVER PRESENT DESIRE OF THE MILITARY IN ALL COUNTRIES FOR THE TOOLS OF ITS TRADE.)

G) THE USG IS COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE

AMERICAS. THIS OF COURSE INCLUDES PEACE IN THE ANDES.

H) WE HOPE THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE IN THE ANDEAN AREA WILL BE KNOWN AND WILL SERVE AS SOMETHING OF A POSITIVE FACTOR.

I) WE CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THIS SITUATION WITH A PEACE-LOVING NATION LIKE VENEZUELA--ITSELF A

MEMBER OF THE ANDEAN FAMILY WHOSE VOICE CARRIES MORAL AUTHORITY IN INTERNATIONAL FORA--AND TO SHARE OUR CONSTRUCTIVE CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE.

J) UNDER THE GENERAL HEADING OF FRIENDLY CONSULTATION, WE HOPE THAT VENEZUELA WILL ACCEPT OUR WORDS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE CONSTRUCTIVE SENSE IN WHICH THEY ARE INTENDED AND WILL FEEL FREE TO GIVE US IN DUE COURSE THE BENEFIT
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OF ANY THOUGHTS OR OBSERVATIONS WHICH IT MAY HAVE ON THE SUBJECT.

K) IN CLOSING, DEVINE SAID THAT SHOULD FUTURE CIRCUMSTANCES SO WARRANT, WE HOPE WE MAY CONSULT FURTHER WITH VENEZUELA OR PERHAPS EVEN CONSIDER WITH IT WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT COOPERATE IN ASSURING THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE. AGAINST THAT POSSIBILITY, THE PRESENT CONVERSATION IS INTENDED AS SOMETHING OF A FOUNDATION WE AND VENEZUELA MAY FIND IT CONVENIENT TO BUILD UPON IN THE FUTURE.

4. AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS PRESENTATION AND SAID HE THOROUGHLY AGREED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND VENEZUELA SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER ON SUCH MATTERS. HE ASKED CERTAIN SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WHICH DEVINE AND BARNEBEY WERE ABLE TO ANSWER IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC EVENTS WHICH HAD OCCURRED DURING THE DECEMBER-JANUARY PERIOD OF TENSIONS. BARNEBEY POINTED OUT THAT THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES HAD TAKEN CERTAIN MEASURES, INCLUDING EXCHANGES OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, TO EASE THE TENSIONS WHICH HAD ARISEN. AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT THE PRESENT STATUS OF BOLIVIAN EFFORTS TO SECURE AN OUTLET TO THE PACIFIC--THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO INTRA-ANDEAN TENSIONS.

5. IN CLOSING THE CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN SAID THAT HE WAS LEAVING WITHIN 48 HOURS FOR CARACAS (TO PARTICIPATE IN MRS. CARTER'S VISIT) AND THAT HE WOULD DESCRIBE THIS CONVERSATION TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OTHERS IN THE MINISTRY. HE REITERATED HIS

APPRECIATION AND SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO
FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS WHOLE PROBLEM
WITH US IN THE FUTURE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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